Shares of Indian Cement Companies Bought by MNCs

2363. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of shares of Indian Cement Companies bought by each of the Multi-National Companies during the liberalisation period;

(b) the total fund invested by these MNCs for takeover of the management of Indian Cement Companies;

(c) whether these MNCs have taken financial assistance from the Indian Bankers/financial institutions for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the reasons for allowing MNCs to get financial assistance from the Indian financial institutions instead of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) A statement showing the approvals given by the Government to foreign companies to invest in existing Indian companies, since 1991, is given below:—

Statement

Foreign Companies who have acquired shares in Indian companies in Cement Sector

Sl. No.	Name of the Foreign Company	Name of the Indian Company	Activity (Date of FC Approval)	%age of foreign equity allowed	Location	Whether by acquisition / expansion / induction
1.	M/s Lafarge Surma Cement Ltd., Frnace.	M/s Lum Mawshun Minerals Pvt. Ltd.	Mining & Export of Limestone (13.9.96)	74% (Rs. 31,82,000) US$ 74,000 1US$=Rs. 43/-	Maghalya	Induction
2.	M/s F.L. Smidth & CO. A/S, Denmark.	M/s Saurashtra Cement Ltd.	Setting up Cement Plant (18.9.96)	54.53% (Rs. 1636 crore)	Near Porbandar, Gujarat	Expansion
3.	(i) M/s Eteroutremer Societe Anonyme, Belgium (ii) M/s Nefibouw B.V., The Netherlands. (Both are WoS. of Etex Group)	M/s Eternit Everest Ltd.	Mfg. of Asbestos and Non-Asbestos and other allied building materials (cement products) (5.4.2000)	49.46% to 50% (Rs. 8,00,100/- at par)	New Delhi	Expansion

Sl. No.	Name of the Foreign Company	Name of the Indian Company	Activity (Date of FC Approval)	%age of foreign equity allowed	Location	Whether by acquisition / expansion / induction
4.	M/s Financiere Lafarge, France	—	Setting up a holding company and further an operating company to acquire Cement Division of Tata Iron & Steel Comapny. (19.2.99)	100% (Rs. 200 crore to go upto Rs. 600 crore)	Singhbum, Bihar	Initially setting up holding co. then acquisition through downstream company
5.	M/s Blue Circle Ind. Plc. UK	M/s Straw Products Ltd.	Expansion of Cement Plant	No equity	—	(technical collaboration)
6.	M/s Italcementi	—	—	—	—	—
7.	M/s Cemex	—	—	—	—	—

(c) and (d) The decision regarding financing of a particular economic activity by granting loans to companies is taken by banks and financial institutions based on their commercial judgement and the lending policy laid down by their respective boards within the framework of prudential regulations and exposure norms prescribed by RBI.

Food Itmes Exported From Maharashtra

†2364. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the food items exported from Maharashtra during each of the last five years;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned on each of the items year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken for more and more production of such valuable items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Central Government maintains export data for the country as a whole and, not State-wise.

(c) Some of the steps taken/incentives given to increase export of food items are as follows:—

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity, training of farmers and setting up of model organic farms.

2. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units.

3. Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.